

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An orthodontic wire retainer, comprising:
  - a first metal wire for conforming to the posterior surface of a dental arch;
  - a second metal wire for conforming to the anterior surface of the dental arch;
  - a third metal wire extending between the first metal wire and second metal wire;
  - said third metal wire attached to said first and second metal wires to form an annular bridge providing a resilient support for teeth along the dental arch;
  - a wire rest extending from said third wire and resting upon the top surface of the dental arch.
2. The orthodontic wire retainer of claim 1, further comprising a wire clasp.
3. The orthodontic wire retainer of claim 1, wherein said wire clasp is W-shaped.
4. The orthodontic wire retainer of claim 1, wherein said wire rest is L-shaped